

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 29, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action. No new matter has been entered.

The specification has been appropriately amended in response to the objection to the disclosure. The applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7 and 10 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reinhard et al. (DE 37 39 272 A1).

Reinhard et al. disclose a transport device for displacing a print head carriage 7, which is guided in a longitudinal direction while sliding along a pair of guide axels 5 and 6. The print head carriage 7 is transported by means of an endless toothed belt 19 (i.e., the belt is formed in a loop). A clamping device 8 and a belt guide 9 are attached to the carriage 7, wherein a part of the endless toothed belt 19 is clamped by the clamping device 8, while another part of the belt 19 is allowed to move through the belt guide 9. The clamping device 8 and the belt guide 9 are fixed in position relative to the carriage 7 and thus are not movable or adjustable in position with respect to each other.

In light of the above description of the prior art, it should be clear that several features of the claimed invention are not in fact shown or disclosed by the cited reference. In particular, the following claimed features are not anticipated by Reinhard et al.

First, the cited reference does not disclose a driving force-transmitting belt having "one end" and "another end" as claimed, wherein the ends of the belt are connected respectively to a first member and a second member. On the contrary, as specifically described (note the English abstract), the transport device requires use of an "endless toothed belt 19" and therefore the belt 19 forms a loop which, by definition, lacks ends. In other words, the parts of the endless belt 19 which are clamped by the clamping device 8 or guided within the belt guide 9 are not "ends" of the belt 19, as required by the claimed invention and recited in each of the independent claims.

Secondly, as also recited in each of the independent claims, the claimed "second member ... is provided displaceably in an axial direction with respect to said first member," and therefore, for example in the case of the elected embodiment, according to the claimed invention the second frame member (304) is displaceable with respect to the first frame member (302). In contrast to this feature, in Reinhard et al., the belt guide 9 is not displaceable with respect to the clamping device 8, but rather, both the belt guide 9 and the clamping device 8 are fixed to the carriage 7 and move together in unison with a constant distance therebetween.

On the basis of these two features alone, it is quite apparent that Reinhard et al. do not anticipate the claimed features. Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claims be shown in a single reference, which is demonstrably not true of the cited prior art.

Further, independent claims 1 and 20 also recite the feature of "an adjusting member which adjusts a distance between said first member and said second member." As noted above, however, in Reinhard et al., the belt guide 9 and the clamping device 8 are fixed to the carriage 7 with a constant distance therebetween. There is no means disclosed in Reinhard et al. by which the distance between the belt guide 9 and the clamping device 8 is adjustable, as claimed. Therefore, for this reason as well, independent claims 1 and 20 clearly are not anticipated by Reinhard et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of the independent claims 1, 18 and 20 is allowable over the cited prior art. With respect to the dependent claims, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as the independent claims.

With respect to the non-elected claims, insofar as the independent claims have not been amended and remain generic with respect to all disclosed embodiments of the invention, as provided by 37 CFR § 1.141, the applicant is entitled to consideration and allowance of any claims dependent thereon, which include the features of such allowable generic claims.

Finally, new dependent claims 21, 22 and 23 have been added, which recite the features, "wherein said one end (32a) of said driving force-transmitting belt (60), when connected to said first member (302), is immovable with respect to said first member (302), and said another end (32b) of said driving force-transmitting belt (60), when connected to said second member (304), is immovable with respect to said second member (304)."


Stated otherwise, the respective ends (32a, 32b) of the driving force-transmitting belt are both fixedly and immovably clamped respectively in the first frame member (302) and the second frame member (304). (Again, the reference numerals refer to the elected embodiment, although these same features are present in the other embodiments.)

In contradistinction to the above features, in Reinhard et al., the belt 19 is only clamped and fixed by the clamping device 8, however, the belt 19 is not immovably clamped in the belt guide 9. On the contrary, in the cited reference, the endless belt 19 is movably disposed within the belt guide 9, for enabling the tension of the belt to be regulated by the torsion spring 11. Accordingly, the features recited in claims 21 to 23 clearly are not shown or suggested in the cited prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated and would not have been obvious to any person skilled in the art at the time the present invention was made. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the rejections and indicate the allowance of pending claims 1 to 23.

This response has been timely submitted within the three month shortened statutory period. Fees for three additional dependent claims in excess of twenty have been submitted with this paper. Should it be deemed that any other fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Guss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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